

Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and the Marine Environmental Data Service, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. Tables of possible storm-induced rises at key locations on the Great Lakes are available on request. The Corps also publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," twice monthly, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. These publications can be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, or by calling (313) 226-6441. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication(s). The Internet address <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh> contains this information on the Internet.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology September 2008

The remnants of Hurricane Ike brought above average precipitation to the Lakes Michigan-Huron and Erie basins. As a result, the Great Lakes basin also recorded above average precipitation. Only the Lake Ontario basin received lower than average precipitation during the month. During the past year, all of the Great Lakes have seen higher than average precipitation. The net supply of water to the Lake Superior basin was below average while Lakes Michigan-Huron and Erie had above average water supplies. Lake Ontario's net supply of water was near average for the month. The tables below list September precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

With the exception of Lake Ontario, the level of each lake was below average when compared to their long-term (1918-2007) averages. Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair were lower than their respective long-term averages by 7, 13 and 3 inches. Lake Erie was near its long term average while Lake Ontario was 7 inches above its respective long-term average.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	September				12-Month Comparison			
	2008	Average	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average	Diff.	% of Average
		(1900-1999)				(1900-1999)		
Superior	3.72	3.53	0.19	105	32.48	30.52	1.96	106
Michigan-Huron	4.71	3.46	1.25	136	37.02	32.18	4.84	115
Erie	3.69	3.15	0.54	117	40.11	35.04	5.07	114
Ontario	2.59	3.24	-0.65	80	41.72	35.35	6.37	118
Great Lakes	4.06	3.41	0.65	119	37.32	32.42	4.90	115

LAKE	September WATER SUPPLIES ² (cfs)		September OUTFLOW ³ (cfs)	
	2008	Average ⁵ (1900-1999)	2008	Average ⁴ (1900-1999)
Superior	41,000	72,000	79,000	83,000
Michigan-Huron	66,000	29,000	173,000	194,000
Erie	-10,000	-18,000	195,000	203,000
Ontario	1,000	5,000	271,000	249,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

¹ Estimated

² Negative water supply denotes evaporation from lake exceeded runoff from local basin.

³ Does not include diversions.

⁴ Niagara and St Lawrence rivers average outflows are based on period of record 1900-1989 and 1900-2006, respectively

⁵ Lakes Erie and Ontario average water supplies based on 1900-1989